

## Museum Manners

Thank you for considering a study trip to the Chula Vista Nature Center! By following a few simple rules, you can make your visit much more enjoyable for everyone participating, as well as enhancing the learning opportunities available at the Nature Center.

Leaders should prepare their groups for their visit by:

1. Making sure they have a reason for visiting. The group should be studying a topic that is emphasized at the site.
2. Familiarizing the group with vocabulary used by docents and interpretive guides.
3. Completing pre-visit activities prior to the visit.

Group leaders and chaperones are kindly asked to help students maintain quiet voices when with their docent and as well as when they are on their own.

Please remind children not to bang on exhibits because it frightens animals, which can lead to injury.

Show children how to use interactive exhibits, manipulating them in a way that is quiet and non-destructive.

In natural preserves and refuges, children, as well as adults, must stay on designated pathways rather than take shortcuts. Natural objects (such as stones, feathers and shells) must be left behind. This is part of learning to respect living things, as well as natural, historical and cultural features of a site.

During your scheduled visit to the Nature Center, your group may not have enough time to fully experience the Interactive Video Kiosk, the Shark & Ray Experience, use the Rubbing Tables, the Floating Nest, and/or the Sound Boards at the Clapper Rail Booth, Burrowing Owl, and Eagle Mesa exhibits. If there is time after your tour and you have enough parent chaperones, children may visit these interactive features 5 at a time with a chaperone. They may also visit the Gift Shop, 5 at a time with a chaperone.

Please make enough copies of the free admission coupon for each of your students to visit with a parent and share what they learned at the Nature Center, as well as take more time for the exhibits they missed.

## Behavior Guidelines

**It is important to remember that the Chula Vista Nature Center and Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge are very special to the animals and plants that live here, some of which are endangered. The guidelines set forth by the Nature Center staff and volunteers are for the protection of our visitors and exhibits. Thank you for your cooperation!**

### In the Discovery Center

Please do not touch the exhibit glass; this generally causes undue stress to the animals. Climbing is not allowed on any of the exhibits.

If given clipboards for scavenger hunts sheets, please have children lean the boards on their arms instead of on the exhibits.

### At the Shark & Ray Experience

Hands must be washed before and after use of the exhibit. Please use the “two finger touch” rule—use only two fingers to touch the animals. Please do not restrain or pick up any of the animals.

### On the Grounds

Always walk and stay on walkways and paths. Please do not climb on or jump off walls, steps, or benches. The plants are for all to enjoy and may be home to local animals. Please do not pick or disturb them any plants.

### In the Walk-through Aviary:

For the safety and well being of the animals, always walk and talk quietly. Please close doors quietly and don't hold them open. Because our birds cannot survive on their own, it is important that they do not get out of the enclosure. Please make sure your entire group is inside and the outer door is closed before opening the inner exhibit doors.

### At the Floating Nest:

Only one person at a time may use it. If you do not have enough time for the group to visit the nest, remind the children that they have a free pass to come back with an adult.

### At the Rubbing Tables:

Supplies can be picked up at the gift shop. Please keep control of paper and crayons, and return them to the gift shop when finished.

### On the Refuge and Photo Blind

Adults and children must stay within the roped trails. Please do not pick flowers or remove anything from the trails (including rocks, feathers, and shells).